

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

A method for signing a message is disclosed in which a control center and a receiver have a permanent, common main key. The control center produces one or more sequence numbers in advance. A one-time encryptor uses the main key to form a signing key from the sequence number. Both the sequence number and the signing key are provided in secure form to a sender. The sender uses the signing key to form a signature for the message and sends the signature with the sequence number and the message to the receiver. The receiver uses a one-way function main key and sequence number to form a check key, which must match the signing key and thus checks the signature on the message.